

# JSC Soccer League Rules

## 1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 Starport Fitness is officially part of the NASA - Johnson Space Center. The Gilruth Center is located on federal property and is considered a federal facility. All rules, regulations and policies of a federal facility apply to the Gilruth Center facility, indoor and outdoor. ALL PLAYERS MUST ABIDE BY THE GILRUTH CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL TIMES. Unless otherwise stated in these rules and the Gilruth Code of Conduct, the league rules shall be the official rules of soccer.
- 1.2 Games will be played in accordance with the current FIFA Laws of the Game, as well as the following JSC Soccer League specific rules.

## 2.0 PLAYERS

### 2.1 Team Roster Requirements

- 2.1.1 All players must be listed on the team's official roster through [www.IMLeagues.com/NASA-Starport](http://www.IMLeagues.com/NASA-Starport). Any player who is not listed on that roster must fill out a paper waiver (available at the Gilruth Information Desk, or at the field under the care of the Referee(s)) prior to participating.
- 2.1.1.1 Paper waivers are acceptable for single game use. Upon conclusion of the player's first game, the player MUST register on the team's official roster through IMLeagues if he/she wishes to continue to participate in the league.
- 2.1.2 All players must be sixteen (16) years of age to participate. Officials and/or Starport Representatives may request documents for age verification at anytime.
- 2.1.2 Teams may add players to the roster up to the last two remaining games of the season. "Official" rosters will be available at the Gilruth Information Desk or online in IMLeagues.com and shall remain there throughout the season.
- 2.1.3 Players are not allowed to be on multiple rosters of any team.
- 2.1.3.1 EXCEPTION: Women will be allowed to play on 2 coed teams (max) during league play only. Women or team captains must contact the Sports and Recreation Director to be placed on both teams official IMLeagues.com rosters. Upon completion of league play, players must choose ONLY ONE of the teams to participate on during the playoff season. If that playoff team has been eliminated, the female player IS NOT allowed to switch to a different team.
- 2.1.3.2 If a player's identity is in question, a protest must be filed to the referee before time has expired for the game. The player in question must provide proper identification during that game. Failure to provide proper identification may result in a forfeit of that game.

### 2.2 Game Roster

- 2.2.1 Each team shall complete a game roster, provided by Gilruth, and available at the Gilruth Information Desk, or at the field under the care of the Referee(s), containing the first and last names and numbers of all players to the officials at least five minutes prior to the start of the contest. The game shall not begin until this is complete. Players may be added to the game roster after the start of play. Goalkeepers may have two numbers listed on the game roster, a goalkeeper's number and a field player's number.

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## 2.3 Fill In Player

- 2.3.1 All teams are encouraged to use the free agent list for substitute players. This list is at all times on IMLeagues.com. If a player is added to the roster from this list the team's roster on IMLeagues will be updated automatically to reflect the adjustment.
- 2.3.2 If at any time a team is unable to start a game or complete a season due to Govt. schedule conflicts, employee job transfer, injuries or emergencies, teams may be allowed to add players to the roster or use temporary "fill ins". Permission to add a player or temporary "fill in" must be under the following conditions and ruling:
- Teams in need of players do not have enough male or female gender to participate, according to rule 3.1.
  - The opposing team agrees to allow the pick-up player.
  - The referee is notified of the pick-up player and agreement.

## 2.4 Playoff Eligibility

- 2.4.1 A player MUST play in at least two (2) regular season games for one specific team to be considered on that team's roster and eligible for play-offs with that team. Players cannot be added to "Official" rosters at the end of season and/or playoffs.

## **3.0 TEAM COMPOSITION**

- 3.1 A minimum of five (5) players must be present at game time to start and continue the game. At least (2) of these players must be female.

### 3.2 Player Makeup

3.2.1 Eight (8) field players (4 female and 4 male – EXCEPTION: 3.2.3)

3.2.2 Goal keeper can be either male or female

3.2.3 Cannot have greater than 4 male field players (EXCEPTION: If both captains AND all officials on duty agree to allow a 5:3 ratio of men to women, it will be allowed for the game. If any of the parties does not agree to this exception PRIOR to game time, the 4:4 ratio will stand)

NOTE: The rationale for the exception in 3.2.3 is to provide relief to a team with only 4 female players during a game played under extreme conditions such as excessive heat. The interest is in safety of the players by allowing a female to be substituted for by a male player. If, in the opinion of the referee, the conditions are not extreme, or the opposing team does not agree, then the exception may not be allowed.

3.2.4 A team may have more than 4 female field players

## **3.1 SUBSTITUTION**

- 3.1.1 Any player may substitute into the game at any team's throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, kick off, or any stoppage of play **provided they have obtained prior permission from the referee.**

NOTE: The referee may not allow any substitution if, in the opinion of the referee, it is an attempt to waste time or slow down the attack of the opposing team.

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## 4.0 EQUIPMENT

- 4.1 The required player equipment includes a jersey, shorts, socks, suitable shoes, and shin guards which shall provide adequate and reasonable protection, be professionally manufactured, age and size appropriate, not altered to decrease protection, and worn under the socks.
  - 4.1.1 Team players are required to have matching jerseys and the Goal Keeper must wear a jersey which is a distinctly different color than any of their own teammates and opposing team.
  - 4.1.2 All jerseys, except those worn by the goalkeeper, shall be numbered on the back with a different Arabic number at least six inches in height. Numbers shall be of contrasting color to the jersey and clearly visible.
  - 4.1.3 Home team will be **required** to change jerseys if both teams have the same color jerseys.
- 4.2 Illegal equipment shall not be worn by any player. This applies to any equipment which in the opinion of the referee is dangerous or confusing.
  - 4.2.1 Jewelry shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals.
    - 4.2.1.1 A religious or symbolic medal must be taped and worn under the uniform.
    - 4.2.1.2 A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.

## 5.0 GAME TIME

- 5.1 GAME TIME IS FOREIT TIME.
  - 5.1.1 When a Team does not have a sufficient number of players present at Game Time, but expect additional players to be able to take to the field within the next fifteen minutes at a maximum, with agreement of the other Team and the Game Officials, the Game starting time may be delayed by no more than fifteen minutes.
- 5.2 If inclement weather conditions continue and in the opinion of the referee the field becomes too dangerous to continue the match, after the start of the second half, the referee blows the whistle, **and** the ball is touched, then the game shall be considered official.
- 5.3 There will be two halves of 30 minutes.
- 5.4 Half time interval will be no longer than 10 minutes.

## 6.0 SCORING

- 6.1 A goal scored by a male player is one point. A goal scored by a female player shall count for two points.
  - 6.1.1 The referee shall determine who actually “propelled” the ball into the goal in order to award either a one point male goal or a two point female goal
- 6.2 After scoring 3 goals, a subsequent goal scored by the male player with three goals WILL NOT count as a goal and the game is restarted with a goal kick.

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6.2.1 There is no limit to the number of goals scored by a female player.

6.2.2 A penalty kick is one (1) point, regardless if scored by male or female player.

6.2.3 A goal scored by the defending Team, "Own Goal", shall count as one point for the attacking team.

## **7.0 FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

7.1 Slide tackles, or attempted slide tackles are NOT allowed. A slide tackle or attempted slide tackle will result in INDIRECT free kick for the opposing team.

*Exception – The goal keeper may be allowed to slide in order to COLLECT the ball in a safe manner.*

7.2 If, in the opinion of the referee, the goal keeper has slid in a dangerous manner, a foul shall be called and an INDIRECT free kick will be awarded at the spot of the foul.

## **8.0 CAUTIONS AND SEND OFFS**

8.1 Fighting, Arguing with Officials WILL NOT be tolerated and may result in a send-off for players and/or fans. All games will be conducted and ruled by the officials (**in accordance to FIFA Laws of the Game and the modifications specified herein**) and all persons must respect their authority. Unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, abusive language, fighting, intentional contact or any action or behavior that impedes officials from performing their duties will not be tolerated under any condition and will be subject to penalties described below.

8.1.1 **Violation:** Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or derogatory remarks made by players, coaches and/or spectators directed at the opposing team or its fans.

**Penalty:** Caution card (yellow). Two cautions (yellow card) in one game will result in the issuance of a red card and the immediate send off of the player and a minimum suspension of 1 game in the next scheduled game.

**Note:** Any player receiving a yellow card shall leave the field of play for five (5) minutes without any substitution.

8.1.2 **Violation:** Offensive, profane, or abusive language, including verbal attacks or abuse directed at officials or players.

**Penalty:** (Red card) and the immediate send off from the game and a 1 game suspension of the next scheduled game.

8.1.3 **Violation:** Any serious foul play executed in a deliberate manner or with unnecessary force, in the opinion of the Referee, that may result in, or causes any type of physical injury to an official or player.

**Penalty:** (Red card) and the immediate send off from the game and a 1 game suspension of the next scheduled game.

**Note:** If a goal keeper receives a yellow card or red card, the offending team may replace him/her with same gender player, but MUST remove a player of the same gender from the field of play.

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8.2 After an accumulation of three yellow cards during the season by a single player, that player shall be suspended from the next scheduled game. A fourth yellow card will result in suspension for the remainder of the season.

8.2.1 The accumulation of cards shall only apply to the regular season. Once playoffs begin, the counting of yellow cards shall start over.

8.3 After an accumulation of two red cards during the season by a single player, that player shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and shall not be allowed to participate in playoffs.

## **9.0 SPORTSMANSHIP RATING SYSTEM**

At Starport, we strive to promote a pleasant atmosphere, not only for our patrons and league participants but for our officials and guests as well. This pertains to League Sports as much as any other part of programs. To promote a friendly and safe atmosphere, Starport implements a sportsmanship rating system that pertains towards players **and** fans/spectators. The sportsmanship rating will be determined by a Starport League Official or Representative and will include behavior before, during, and after each contest. Each team will receive a numerical grade after each game. All teams will begin a game with a 4.0 Sportsmanship rating. A team that has an average sportsmanship rating of less than 2.5 will be ineligible for the playoffs. Sportsmanship ratings will be based off of the criteria specified in Sections 12.0 and 13.0.

## **10.0 PLAYOFFS & SEEDINGS**

10.1 Playoff seeding will be determined by regular season record. In the event of a tie between two or more teams, the seeding will be determined by:

1. Head-to-head record
2. Sportsmanship Rating (Average)
3. Point Differential (Total)
4. Point Differential (Teams in question)

10.2 The team with the better seeding (1 > 2, etc...) shall be the home team in each round of the playoffs EXCEPT for the Championship Game. A coin toss prior to the championship game shall be conducted to determine home team.

10.3 ONLY players on that specific team's official roster registered with the Gilruth and have played in at least two (2) regular season games will be allowed to participate in Playoffs.

10.4 If the game is tied at the end of regulation play in a **playoff game**, we will go directly to a 35 yard shootout.

10.4.1 The visiting team shall shoot first.

10.4.2 A female shall shoot first for their respective team followed by a male and then alternating between genders.

10.4.3 Any eligible player on the sideline, allowed to participate via rule 9.1, will be allowed to participate in the shootout.

10.4.4 Shootout will be conducted according to the UIL Shootout Procedures with alternating male/female or female/male shooters.

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## 11.0 PROTEST

- 11.1 **A PROTESTED GAME** consists of a difference in opinion on the field between the protesting team and the official regarding the application of either Official Printed Playing Rules, or Specially Adopted Rules.
- 11.2 Allowable protests should be first lodged by the team captain to the game official prior to restart of play if unsatisfied with a ruling. The captain must then lodge his/her protest to the Recreations Manager. The Recreations Manager will view the protest and rule on the decision.
- 11.3 A protest cannot be filed based on the referee's interpretation or judgment of either official Laws of the Game or specially adopted rules stated herein, but only on a mis-application of these rules that results in a significant change in the outcome of the game.

## 12.0 SPORTSMANSHIP RATING CRITERIA

Sportsmanship ratings will be based off of the following criteria:

- 4.0
  - A team that does not have any problems will receive a 4.0.
  - The team captain has full control of his/her teammates.
  - A rating of 4.0 will be given to a team that wins by forfeit or default.
- 3.5
  - The team captain calmly converses with officials about interpretations and calls.
  - There was no abusive language used toward anybody.
  - Very few complaints.
- 3.0
  - Minor dissent is present, but overall players respect officials and the game.
  - Team complains more frequently, but does not earn any unsportsmanlike behavior penalties.
- 2.5
  - Team uses abusive language towards officials and/or opposing team that may or may not merit a warning.
  - Captain shows some control of his/her players and fans.
  - One or several warnings for unsportsmanlike behavior, but no unsportsmanlike conduct penalties.
- 2.0
  - A single *non-procedural*\* unsportsmanlike conduct violation (technical foul [basketball], yellow card [soccer], unsportsmanlike conduct penalty [football], etc) is issued.
  - A team tries to have a player participate who is not on their official IMLeagues.com roster.
  - A rating of a 2.0 will be given to a team if they forfeit a game with MORE than 24 hour notice.
- 1.5
  - Teams constantly arguing with officials and/or opposing team.
  - Captain shows little or no control of his/her players and fans.
- 1.0
  - Multiple *non-procedural*\* unsportsmanlike conduct violations (technical foul [basketball], yellow card [soccer], unsportsmanlike conduct penalty [football], etc) are issued.
  - A player is ejected from the contest, or multiple unsportsmanlike conduct penalties.

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- 0.5
  - Captain shows no control over his/her players and fans.
- 0.0
  - Multiple players from one team are ejected.
  - A rating of 0.0 will be given to a team when they forfeit a game with LESS than 24 hour notice.

**This list is not all-inclusive. Not all listed criteria must be present to issue a particular rating. If a 1, 0.5, or 0 rating is issued, the team captain must meet with the Starport Administrator before the start of the next scheduled game. If this meeting does not take place prior to the next scheduled game, the offending team will forfeit that game.**

**Note:** Procedural unsportsmanlike conduct violations (example: Basketball/Soccer – Technical foul/yellow card for too many players on the court/field) will not count against a team's sportsmanship rating for the game.

## **13.0 STARPORT SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY**

The sportsmanship policy will be a tool utilized by Starport League Sports to ensure that the teams in our leagues maintain an appropriate level of sportsmanship throughout the competition.

13.1 In order to be eligible for the playoffs, teams must average a sportsmanship rating of '2.5' for the entire regular season (if applicable). Teams with a sportsmanship rating of less than '2.5' at the end of the regular season will not advance to the playoffs regardless of their regular season record. If a winning team earns a sportsmanship rating of 2 or lower for any playoff/tournament game, the Director of Sports and Recreation will determine whether or not the team will be eligible to remain in the playoff tournament. **If a team receives a 0 for a game, they are removed from playoff contention and a disciplinary meeting will take place between team reps and Director of Sports and Recreation.**

13.2 If a team is removed from tournament competition because of a sportsmanship violation, their opponent will advance (regardless of the outcome of the game). If this happens in the championship game, the opposing team will be declared the champion. If both teams are removed from playoff competition due to sportsmanship violations in a playoff/tournament game, neither team will advance. The subsequent opponent will have a 'bye' (regardless of the outcome of the game). If this occurs in the championship game, no league champion will be recognized.